

Board Meeting Minutes  
November 20, 2019

The November meeting of the Lockwood Irrigation District was held at the Lockwood Water Office, 1644 Old Hardin Rd. Present were Board Members Merrill Walker, Terry Seiffert, and Bob Riehl; Manager Carl Peters, and Secretary/Treasurer Hank Peters. Past Secretary/Treasurer Cindy Matus and Mike Ariztia, Manager of the Lockwood Water & Sewer District, also attended the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Merrill Walker. Mr. Walker presented Cindy Matus with a plaque and gift certificate in recognition of her 23 years as Secretary/Treasurer. It was noted that in 97 years, Lockwood Irrigation District has only had four people serve as Secretary/Treasurer.

The Minutes of the October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Board meeting were reviewed, and a Motion was made by Mr. Seiffert, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Riehl, to approve as written. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. LWSD-LID Joint Water Rights Study:** Mr. Ariztia and the Board discussed the scope of the study, with Mr. Riehl asking about the potential for both districts to share employees and other resources. Mr. Walker and Mr. Riehl also asked about a potential permanent storage area for LID vehicles. Mr. Ariztia said that the LWSD has been trying to acquire additional water rights for a while but had not discussed pooling resources with the District. Mr. Seiffert and Mr. Walker agreed that the first question that needs to be answered before the study is how much of the LID water rights are needed by the District and if LWSD and the District can share water rights. Mr. Ariztia said the LWSD needs a permanent agreement. Mr. Ariztia will check with the LWSD attorney, Matt Williams, about the options the LWSD has for acquiring water rights from the District and how much separation is required between the two districts.
- 2. Pump Station & Lift Pipes Rehabilitation Project:** Resolution No. 112019 to submit to electors of the District the question of incurring bonded indebtedness not to exceed \$750,000.00 for a DNRC Loan to finance the replacement of lift pipes, pumps and the Box Elder Creek Siphon was read aloud by the Secretary. Mr. Walker, Mr. Seiffert, and Mr. Riehl voted in favor of the resolution. The Secretary will deliver copies of the resolution to the Yellowstone County Election Office and Bond Counsel within three days of the meeting. The election date will be February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The 60-day deadline for the District to send the list of qualified electors to the County Election Office is December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The Manager reported three returns on pre-election informational mailings. One was human error, but two were returned despite being addressed correctly. The rough estimate of the total number of votes is 2,470. 1,248 are single votes, 1,033 are votes for trusts and corporations, and 189 are individual property owners with multiple votes. The total District acreage is 2,100. The Manager will ask Dan Semmens about the cost per acre for the Resolution.
- 3. I-90 Project:** The Manager met with Stephanie Hudock and Leif Sande of Sanderson Stewart regarding approximately 14 I-90 irrigation crossings on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Seiffert made a motion that the Manager will draft a letter stating the District's position is to retain all irrigation crossings for present and future use. Mr. Riehl seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- 4. LID Audit:** The Manager emailed Mr. Matt Hjelm of Wipfli. The Manager sent Mr. Hjelm minutes of District meetings from 2017 to the present. The Manager will have to draft a Letter of Intent.

5. **Weaver Lateral Issue:** Mr. Seiffert emailed a letter to Mr. Jim Weaver, who had complained about the lateral plugging. Mr. Weaver responded that he cleans the screen every time he uses it. A letter will be drafted to the property owner, Mr. Bill Grice, stating that the pipe must be flushed. The letter will give Mr. Grice the option of the District having Pace Construction flush the pipe and assess the cost to Mr. Grice or Mr. Grice contracting the work himself.
6. **LID Intake Maintenance:** No news to report.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Updated 2014 L.I.D. Rate Study:** The study is on hold until after the Bond Election.
2. **Canal Leaks:** No news to report.

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

The District now has a corporate seal rubber stamp, with an embosser on order, since the original embosser could not be located. A tree was removed from the 60' canal at 1249 Highway 87 East. Pace Construction will be removing silt from the pumphouse intake on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The U-joints on the '98 Dodge have been replaced. Another truck will be dropped off November 22<sup>nd</sup> at Cory's Auto Repair for repairs. The lock-chains have yet to be installed on the 60' & 100' siphon drain covers. The drain and screens are yet to be replaced. Lonnie Beckel will rent a forklift to replace the screens, which are too rusty. NorthWestern Energy has yet to contact the Manager regarding the November bill, which was much higher than previous months despite the pumps being shutoff. The Manager took a picture after shutting down and locking the pumps. The secretary of Hope Lutheran Church contacted the Manager asking for the church to be removed from the assessments. Charity Baptist Church made a similar request. The Manager found in the minutes for the March 1990 meeting that Mr. Bob Dunker wanted Hope Lutheran Church removed from the assessments, but the request was denied because the District has always included churches in the assessments. Last year, MDOR erroneously left churches and schools off the assessment list. As a result, the Manager has let both churches know that they were correctly included in the assessments. A potential buyer of 1325 Maxer Circle wanted a fence extension into the District's easement. This request was denied because of the precedent it would set.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Secretary presented the budget reports for September and October, along with discussion regarding the disputed Northwestern Energy statements and changing the District's VISA card from Cindy. A list of checks written October 8<sup>th</sup> through November 20<sup>th</sup> was presented to the Board. Discussion followed regarding the

**With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Seiffert, seconded by Mr. Walker. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m. Next monthly meeting will be December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Hank Peters  
Secretary/Treasurer